

## Opinion Page

### Editorials

# Here Is Information on Local Tornado Siren Plan

WHEN THE devastating tornado hit Oelwein Wednesday, one of the firemen on duty jumped to the fire alarm button and pressed it. But the tornado hit so suddenly that the alarm sounded, he estimates, only about 15 seconds before the electric power went off.

Apparently there is no feasible way within reasonable cost limits to provide a fool-proof warning system when tornadoes strike as suddenly as those which hit Northeast Iowa Wednesday.

AL MARICLE, civil defense director for Black Hawk County and the metropolitan cities, says that the 14 civil defense sirens in this area are activated by leased telephone wire and are powered by Iowa Public Service Co. power. Thus, any tornado which struck before the sirens could be sounded might inactivate the system.

Maricle says that a new system is available which activates sirens by a sound signal; but the sirens would still be powered by overhead electric wires. Providing diesel-generators at each siren site would be prohibitively expensive.

If the Black Hawk County system cannot be guaranteed against damage by a tornado which strikes without advance warning, it is still likely to be effective

for a large part of the city in the overwhelming majority of tornado situations. The sirens are activated from the No. 1 Fire Station whenever a tornado is sighted in the vicinity by officials of the U.S. Weather Bureau at Waterloo Municipal Airport.

HERE IS THE essential information: The tornado warning is a continuous, steady blast of the sirens continuing for from three to five minutes. (The monthly test at 11 a.m. on the 15th of each month continues for only one minute.) The wavering "up and down" blast of the sirens will be sounded ONLY to signal a military attack on the United States.

Upon hearing the continuous sounding of the sirens to indicate that a tornado has been sighted, people should take appropriate cover with a battery-powered, portable radio. There will be no "all clear" signal so that radios are important.

No siren signal is sounded when the Weather Bureau merely reports that "tornado conditions" prevail. The sirens are sounded only when a tornado is actually sighted. Such warnings were sounded once in 1966 and once in 1967. So far, no tornadoes have been sighted locally in 1968.

## No Constitutional Right to Welfare

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Executive Council, Southeast Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, has denied that he thinks people have a Constitutional right to welfare payments.

The charge was made by Attorney General Richard Turner after the official, Burt Galaway of Cedar Rapids, had written to protest Iowa intervention in a pending Supreme Court case testing the residency requirements of most states for welfare eligibility.

THERE IS A GOOD excuse for public confusion over Constitutional "rights." Through successive interpretations, the U.S. Constitution is virtually anything that five men on the court say it is; and no reading of the original document can give any clear indication of Constitutional precepts.

But even the U.S. Supreme Court has not ruled that anyone has a Constitutional right to welfare. One of the issues in the pending case is whether residency requirements violate the 14th Amendment. This declares that no state shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." The court is expected to rule that residency requirements do violate this "equal protection" clause.

IOWA INTERVENED in the case because its welfare payments are relatively high compared to other states. Without the residency requirement, people from states with lower payments would be expected to move to the states with higher payments and thus dissipate their welfare appropriations. The immediate effect would be to cause lower payments for existing welfare recipients.

Ultimately, however, the anticipated Supreme Court decision is expected to result in almost uniform welfare pay-

ments through the country, either through action by state legislatures or through the nationalization of the welfare system. If this happens, those eligible for welfare may be expected to gravitate to the states with warm, sunny climates.

How to improve a leaky faucet or an untidy, hippie-type gal: washer.

### Strictly Personal

## Harris: Candidates Not Cans of Soup

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

A FEW DAYS before he declared himself out of the presidential race, Governor Rockefeller was described in a front-page story in the New York Times as conferring with his advisers about the "public position" he ought to take on the Vietnam war.

"These advisers," the story said, "have urged Governor Rockefeller to picture himself as a 'moderate dove' with views somewhere between those of Mr. Nixon and Senator Robert Kennedy . . . but other men have advised him to avoid detailing his views on Vietnam at this time."



Public Relations

Harris Here, in an odious little nutshell, is what is wrong with American politics, at its highest conventional level. It has become more a matter of public relations and "positioning the candidate" than a matter of right and wrong, good and bad, true and false.

Why should Governor Rockefeller, or any other potential candidate, have to "picture himself" as anything? Why should he not say what he believes, fully and frankly, and let the chips fall where they may? Why should he wait for the right time, or the right place, or the right situation, to declare what course he thinks our nation should follow in this most crucial issue of our decade?

### Share of Market

Running for President, or any other high office, is not comparable to putting a new product on the market, and trying to find a singular "place" for it among the competing claims of other products. Finding a "share of market" may be fine for a soap or soup, but it is demeaning and ultimately immoral for a man who offers national leadership.

What most of the conventional candidates are looking for, of course, is a campaign that will please the Negroes and assuage the angry whites; that will delight the laboring man without offending the capitalist; that will offer the hawks an honorable victory and the doves a decent solution; that will seem all things to all men without any genuine commitment to basic moral, social or political principles.

### False Moderation

This is why a radical like Goldwater was more honest than conventional candidates; why a racist like George Wallace is more honest (if far more dangerous); why a candid peace candidate like Eugene McCarthy is more honest — and more appealing — than the men who mask their convictions (or fail to have any) under the guise of "moderation."

A candidate should not "position" himself to get the maximum support for the minimum of commitment. This false kind of "moderation" merely drives a cynical public into the arms of blind extremism.

ments through the country, either

## Only Two Sessions Failed to Boost Taxes

By DAVID DENTAN  
Assistant Managing Editor

AS THE TABLE below shows, biennial appropriations voted by the Iowa General Assembly increased from approximately \$161 million 20 years ago to nearly a billion dollars for the current biennium.

These figures are pertinent in the current discussion over a proposed Constitutional amendment for annual sessions of the legislature. Voters will indicate their approval or disapproval of this amendment at the general election next fall.

Pressures for increased spending at each session of the legislature have been virtually irresistible. Annual sessions would inevitably mean a more rapid increase in state spending.

### Taxes Go Up and Up

For example, only two sessions of the legislature in the past 20 years have failed to increase state tax rates or enact new taxes. What would happen if pressures for increased spending could be exerted every year?

Moreover, the figures on state tax increases do not show the number of times the legislature has authorized or required increased local spending from property taxes.

The 1955 session of the legislature increased the sales tax to 2½ per cent for a two-year period. The 1957 session renewed this 2½ per cent tax; but it was vetoed by Gov. Herschel Loveless. The veto was a factor in his re-election in 1958.

### Who Wants It?

The people pushing for adoption of annual sessions are, with some exceptions, the very same people who are perpetually pressuring the legislature for increased spending.

In the past 20 years, biennial appropriations of the General Assembly increased approximately 515 per cent.

How much will the increase be in the next 20 years if the legislature meets annually instead of every two years?

### Some Questions

Moreover, citizens should ask Gov. Harold Hughes and Lt. Gov. Robert Fulton, who are pushing for

adoption of the annual session amendment:

How can you favor annual sessions of the legislature when you have adamantly refused to call a 1968 special session to clean up the erratic, unfair and unconstitutional tax bill hurriedly adopted in two days at the close of the 1967 session?

What case can be made for annual sessions when the 1967 session dawdled for six months and then rammed through a \$110 million tax bill before the public even had a chance to protest?

Voters should study the factual information printed below. It may provide some insight into the probable consequences of annual sessions.

### IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY BIENNIAL APPROPRIATIONS

52nd GA-1947-49 - \$160,714,160  
53rd GA-1949-51 - 259,484,284 (Includes \$50,000,000 Bonus)  
54th GA-1951-53 - 222,447,106 (Includes \$8,000,000 Bonus)  
55th GA-1953-55 - 244,745,392  
56th GA-1955-57 - 273,071,122  
57th GA-1957-59 - 286,492,732  
58th GA-1959-61 - 342,775,552  
59th GA-1961-63 - 387,810,880  
60th GA-1963-65 - 416,032,348  
61st GA-1965-67 - 542,159,449  
62nd GA-1967-69 - 988,411,934

### IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEW TAXES OR TAX INCREASES

52nd GA - 1947-49  
Sales and use tax applied to airplanes  
Barrel tax on beer manufactured for sale or sold in state at wholesale—\$2.48 per barrel  
2½% tax on receipts from operation of amusement devices including slot machines, pinball machines, musical devices, etc.  
53rd GA - 1949-51  
None  
54th GA - 1951-53  
Drivers' licenses increased from 50c to \$1.50  
55th GA - 1953-55  
Cigarette tax increased from 2c to 3c per pack  
Set up a schedule for taxation (fees) for mobile homes  
Motor vehicle fuel tax increased from 4c to 5c per gal-

lon for biennium

### 56th GA - 1955-57

Sales tax extended to bowling alleys  
Sales tax extended to retail sales of beer and cigarettes  
Sales and use tax increased to 2½%  
Individual income tax increased to 80% of old 100% rate  
Gas tax increased to 6c for biennium

### 57th GA - 1957-59

Drivers' licenses increased from \$1.50 to \$3

### 58th GA - 1959-61

Corporate income tax increased from 2% to 3%  
Cigarette tax increased from 3c to 4c per pack

### 59th GA - 1961-63

None

### 60th GA - 1963-65

Cigarette tax increased from 4c to 5c  
New liquor tax—occupational tax of 10% of gross receipts of liquor sales

### 61st GA - 1965-67

Cigarette tax increased from 5c to 8c  
Corporation tax increased from 3% to 4%  
Drivers' license from \$3 to \$5  
Inheritance tax rates increased  
2% sales tax on hotel and motel rooms  
Extension of insurance premium tax  
Began state income tax withholding with 2 years to be paid in one

### 62nd GA - 1967-69

Sales and use tax increased from 2% to 3%  
3% tax on services  
Eliminated "readily available" clause  
Increased corporation income tax and eliminated ½ of the federal income tax deduction  
Cigarette tax increased from 8c to 10c per pack  
Personal income tax increased to 4½% rate over \$7,000 and up  
Beer tax increased from \$2.48 per barrel to \$3.72  
Tobacco tax—10% at wholesale on cigars, etc.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

# Says Avoidable Lung Ailment Kills Miners Daily

By DREW PEARSON  
and JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — The recent coal mine disaster at Hominy Falls, W. Va., was featured on television and in headlines around the nation. Not featured, however, was the fact that simultaneously coal miners suffer from a daily tragedy — the lung disease of pneumoconiosis. It's caused by breathing very fine coal dust. More than 140,000 active and retired coal miners are suffering from this disease, and almost nothing is being done about it.

### Leads to Death

In fact, with the mechanization of mines, coal dust has become finer and the disease more prevalent. It leads to the gradual collapse of lung functioning and death.

Every year 1,200 miners die of pneumoconiosis in Pennsylvania alone. Pennsylvania, a state which recognizes the tragic results of the disease, will pay out around \$50 million in damages to miners' families this year, and about \$70 million next year. Most states, however, don't recognize the disease.

### Set No Standards

Meanwhile, few steps are taken to prevent pneumoconiosis, such as ventilation of the mines and watering-down coal. In western Europe, coal-mining

nations have taken vigorous steps to combat pneumoconiosis, but in the United States the Bureau of Mines has adopted no standards to control coal dust.

The Coal Mine Safety Act of 1952 exempts the largest single area of death and injury, namely the working face of the mine, from federal safety regulation. Furthermore, enforcement of the safety act has become a farce. Violation after violation has been cited since the act became law in 1952, but only one penalty has ever been assessed against a mine operator.

### Operators' Influence

The U.S. Bureau of Mines is under the strong influence of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. Meanwhile Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall has appeared more interested in bicycle paths through parks and preservation of woods and flowers than the protection of coal miners' health.

There was a day when John L. Lewis, beetle-browed president of the United Mine Workers, forced the building of hospitals in the coal mining areas. However, the UMW treasury has become so low, following the mechanization of mines and the decrease of UMW membership, that the union has been unable to finance the hospitals, and most

have been turned over to local communities.

### Begin Investigation

W. A. Boyle, who now replaces Lewis as president of the mine workers, has seemed more interested in combating atomic energy and natural gas than fighting for safety and health of the miners.

Recently Secretary Udall, worried over mine safety, appointed Under Secretary of the Interior David S. Black as chief of an investigating team to look into the operation of the Bureau of Mines. It will be interesting to see what, if anything, happens.

Sen. Ralph Yarborough, D-Tex., will start investigating industrial safety next week.

### Rep. Mendel Rivers Champion of Navy?

The Navy's best friend on Capitol Hill is Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, D-S.C., whose ability to outlive his seniors has made him chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee.

There is no indiscretion that Chairman Rivers and the Navy brass won't cover up for one another. At the Navy's urging, for example, he is now trying to head off congressional demands for a court of inquiry into the controversial Arnharter affair. The court is sought by

Rep. Joe Resnick, D-N.Y., to settle whether the Navy was justified in firing Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Arnharter as commander of the radar picket ship USS Vance in 1966.

### Might be Embarrassed

Resnick has invited his House colleagues to join him in petitioning Secretary of the Navy

Paul Ignatius to give Arnharter his day in court. The petition doesn't ask Ignatius to decide in Arnharter's favor but merely to convene a court of inquiry.

The Navy brass, who might be embarrassed by an open meeting, have asked Rivers to use his influence to keep congressmen from signing the petition.

## DENNIS THE MENACE



"Ya know what I think? I don't think she had a appendicitis attack. I think she had a STUMMY-ACHE!"

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